

SCHEDULE FOR SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025

In the event of unforeseen conflicts, we reserve the right to make adjustments to this schedule.

Schedule last updated on 19 June 2025

Location • With the exception of the TLM wedding being sung at Sacred Heart Parish in Grand Rapids, MI—where PALESTRINA500 is happening—**all Symposium events** will take place on the campus of Saint Mary's Catholic Church: 239 W Clay Ave • Muskegon, MI 49440.

* As per the exhortation (5 July 2016) by the Vatican's chief liturgist, all Masses at Saint Mary's are offered *ad orientem*.

Events marked in **yellow** are mandatory.

	Monday (23 June)	Tuesday (24 June)	Wednesday (25 June)	Thursday (26 June)	Friday (27 June)	Saturday (28 June)	Sunday (29 June)
	Tuesday—7:30am Daily Mass	Wednesday—7:30am Daily Mass					
8:30am	<p>✱ In the past, our symposium had various themes: Roman Catholic hymnody; how to build a children's choir; 16th-century counterpoint; different ways to accompany Gregorian Chant on the organ; and so forth. This year, we narrow our focus to one main theme:</p>	<p>8:30am - 9:50am : "29 Tips" (Part 1 of 4) INTRO to Chanson serving as BASIS.</p> <p>Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what style of music you're doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: "29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs."</p>	<p>8:30am - 9:50am : "29 Tips" (Part 2 of 4)</p> <p>Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what style of music you're doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: "29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs."</p>	<p>8:30am - 9:50am : "29 Tips" (Part 3 of 4)</p> <p>Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what style of music you're doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: "29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs."</p>	<p>8:30am - 9:50am : "29 Tips" (Part 4 of 4)</p> <p>All instruction today deals with how to recruit choir members.</p>	<p>On Saturday, we travel to Grand Rapids—40+ minutes from Muskegon—to Sacred Heart Parish (where PALESTRINA500 is being held) :</p> <p>151 Garfield Ave SW Grand Rapids, MI 49504</p> <p>There, we'll sing for a TLM wedding (which begins at 12:30pm). Saturday's dress rehearsal—with professional members of Jonathan Bading's choir—will begin at 9:30am.</p>	<p>Call time for the dress rehearsal on Sunday morning is 8:45am.</p>
10:00am	<p><i>Avoiding Common Pitfalls of Parish Choirs.</i></p> <p>✱ <i>Nothing is scheduled on Monday morning because many are arriving at the airport.</i></p>	<p>10:00am - Noon : Interactive Rehearsal</p> <p>This is not a "normal" rehearsal. It is "interactive"—i.e., it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He'll talk about the importance of "Plan B Polyphony" specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.</p>	<p>10:00am Incredible surprise you won't want to miss!</p> <p>10:15am - Noon : Interactive Rehearsal</p> <p>This is not a "normal" rehearsal. It is "interactive"—i.e., it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He'll talk about the importance of "Plan B Polyphony" specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.</p>	<p>10:00am - Noon : Interactive Rehearsal</p> <p>This is not a "normal" rehearsal. It is "interactive"—i.e., it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He'll talk about the importance of "Plan B Polyphony" specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.</p>	<p>10:00am - Noon : Interactive Rehearsal</p> <p>This is not a "normal" rehearsal. It is "interactive"—i.e., it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He'll talk about the importance of "Plan B Polyphony" specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.</p>		<p>We will sing the 10:00am (Ordinary Form) parish Mass at Saint Mary's.</p>
12:10pm	<p>12:10pm • Mass at St. Mary's (Novus Ordo ad orientem)</p>	<p>12:10pm - 1:10pm Lunch Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.</p>	<p>12:10pm - 1:10pm Lunch Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.</p>	<p>11:40am • CONFESSIONS</p> <p>12:10pm • Mass at St. Mary's (Novus Ordo ad orientem)</p>	<p>11:40am • CONFESSIONS</p> <p>12:10pm • Mass at St. Mary's (Novus Ordo ad orientem) We'll sing something relatively simple for this Mass.</p>		<p>Choir members will be given option to receive Holy Communion immediately after Mass</p>
1:10pm	<p>1:10pm - 1:40pm Registration</p> <p>Come register, get your free booklet (containing all musical scores), & socialize with other participants.</p>	<p>1:20pm - 2:50pm Plainsong (Carmen Gregorianum)</p> <p>Kaitrin Drost will instruct the female participants in Carmen Gregorianum ("Gregorian Chant").</p>	<p>1:20pm - 2:50pm Plainsong (Carmen Gregorianum)</p> <p>Kaitrin Drost will instruct the female participants in Carmen Gregorianum ("Gregorian Chant").</p>	<p>1:00pm - 2:00pm Lunch Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.</p>	<p>1:00pm - 2:00pm Lunch Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.</p>	<p>PRIVATE composition lessons with Kevin Allen will be scheduled during the week on an individual basis. Potential spots are outlined with red ink.</p>	
2:10pm	<p>1:50pm - 3:50pm Optional Sectionals</p>	<p>Corrinne May will instruct the male participants in Carmen Gregorianum ("Gregorian Chant")</p>	<p>Corrinne May will instruct the male participants in Carmen Gregorianum ("Gregorian Chant")</p>	<p>2:10 - 2:50pm Plainsong (Carmen Gregorianum) Divisi like Tuesday & Wednesday</p>	<p>2:10pm - 2:50pm Wedding Dress Rehearsal</p> <p>This won't take place in Grand Rapids—it will be on Saint Mary's campus.</p>		<p>Holy Mass is how SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025 will conclude.</p>
3:00pm	<p>Kevin Allen will lead <u>men</u> (who wish to participate) in sectional rehearsals. Kaitrin Drost will do likewise with the <u>women</u>.</p> <p>4:10pm - 5:00pm Keynote Address</p> <p>"Palestrina500 and Evangelization through Beauty"</p> <p>Jonathan Bading; choirmaster & organist at Sacred Heart Parish in Grand Rapids, where Palestrina500 is happening</p> <p>5:20pm - 7:00pm : LECTURE</p> <p>Jeff Ostrowski will take participants through the 155-page booklet, with special emphasis on the "Justus ut palma" melody & "In te speravi" adiastematic neumes. + Faculty Demonstration of gradual chant</p>	<p>3:00pm - 5:00pm Plenary Rehearsal</p> <p>Kevin Allen will run this rehearsal. Items he'll focus on include: Newman's "Lead Kindly Light"; the Gloria commissioned for Sacred Music Symposium 2025; and "Quam Dilecta."</p> <p>Corrinne May might use some of this rehearsal for Palestrina's "Ave Maria."</p>	<p>3:00pm - 5:00pm Plenary Rehearsal</p> <p>Kevin Allen will run this rehearsal. Items he'll focus on include: Newman's "Lead Kindly Light"; the Gloria commissioned for Sacred Music Symposium 2025; and "Quam Dilecta."</p> <p>Corrinne May might use some of this rehearsal for Palestrina's "Ave Maria."</p>	<p>3:00pm - 5:00pm Plenary Rehearsal</p> <p>Corrinne May & Kevin Allen will run this rehearsal. Items include: Newman's "Lead Kindly Light"; the Gloria commissioned for Sacred Music Symposium 2025; and "Quam Dilecta."</p> <p>Corrinne will focus on conducting the Palestrina "Ave Maria"</p>	<p>3:00pm - 4:00pm</p> <p>How to create & typeset gorgeous Gregorian Chant scores</p> <p>Jeff Ostrowski will present this workshop. Those who need to leave early due to PALESTRINA500 are welcome to leave early.</p>	<p>Saturday confessions at 3:00pm</p> <p>4:00pm • Mass at St. Mary's (Novus Ordo ad orientem) This is the parish "anticipated" Mass on Saturday night.</p>	
5:10pm		<p>5:10pm - 6:10pm Rhythm of Plainsong</p> <p>Jeff Ostrowski will discuss what every serious Catholic musician should know about this fascinating topic.</p> <p>Included are Dom Lucien David, Dr. Peter Wagner, Dr. Weinmann (5 staves), René Paris, & more.</p>	<p>5:10pm - 6:10pm Repertoire for 3 Voices</p> <p>Kaitrin Drost will give examples of repertoire for three voices that will take your breath away—and her two daughters will help her demonstrate!</p>	<p>5:10pm - 6:00pm Lecture by Corrine May</p> <p>Corrinne, a platinum singer/songwriter, will tell the fascinating story of establishing a massive volunteer choir—and a choral movement in Singapore—in the OF ... despite numerous obstacles.</p>	Friday Night		
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